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looking over all the cards. It does not leave the unusual prevalence of any communicable disease to individual judgment and it furnishes at once the indication for administrative action.

The inclusion upon a single card of the cases of the previous years and incidence of the diseases, and the weekly and monthly total cases and deaths, furnishes all of the necessary data for the institution of two of the fundamentals of epidemiological control of communicable diseases, namely, prompt and thorough investigation of all outbreaks of communicable diseases and the evaluation of the correctness of our epidemiological diagnosis and administrative treatment of these diseases.

Conclusions.

1. That the administrative control of communicable diseases demands a sensitive standard for judging the relative prevalence of these diseases.

2. The endemic experience of a community with a disease furnishes the basis for construction of such a standard.

3. The endemic index, while not statistically accurate, is a practical administrative tool for the public health official.

SMALLPOX PREVALENCE.

During recent weeks an unusual prevalence of smallpox has been reported in a number of cities of the United States. The disease has been universally of the mild type which has been so common in this country for 20 years. The cities in which the disease has been prevalent and the numbers of cases reported by weeks are shown in the following table:

Unusual smallpox prevalence—Sept. 30 to Dec. 8, 1917.

City.	Popula- tion as of July 1, 1916 (es- timated by U. S. Census Bureau).	Cases reported during week ended--										Total.
		Oct. 6.	Oct. 13.	Oct. 20.	Oct. 27.	Nov. 3.	Nov. 10.	Nov. 17.	Nov. 24.	Dec. 1.	Dec. 8.	
Akron, Ohio.....	85,625	....	1	3	10	4	12	11	25	28	5	99
Alton, Ill.....	22,874	1	4	....	....	1	5	4	4	9	3	31
Butte, Mont.....	39,425	9	6	7	10	7	14	14	24	29	32	152
Cleveland, Ohio.....	674,073	24	1	16	21	5	17	18	26	21	32	181
Cumberland, Md.....	26,074	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10	1	1	12
Denver, Colo.....	260,800	1	2	8	....	....	11	7	18	13	(2)	60
Detroit, Mich.....	571,784	5	14	14	6	17	32	29	38	41	(2)	196
Flint, Mich.....	54,772	(1)	....	4	....	2	2	7	5	15	(2)	35
Fort Wayne, Ind.....	76,183	29	13	27	34	42	30	48	30	37	23	313
Grand Rapids, Mich.....	128,291	1	....	2	6	1	2	....	7	10	(2)	29
Indianapolis, Ind.....	271,708	22	5	17	19	19	9	24	20	40	54	229
Kansas City, Kans.....	99,437	2	9	6	11	19	28	23	30	47	37	229
Kansas City, Mo.....	297,847	9	24	26	24	33	50	78	67	79	140	530
Minneapolis, Minn.....	363,454	5	9	8	7	8	23	17	23	18	(2)	118
Oklahoma City, Okla.....	92,943	....	2	....	4	4	3	1	2	10	(2)	26
Omaha, Nebr.....	165,470	5	3	....	10	7	55	17	77	44	59	277
St. Paul, Minn.....	247,232	5	7	(1)	9	19	5	28	22	22	(2)	117

¹ No report.

² Report not received in time for publication.